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Commanding general's Thanksgiving message

On this Thanksgiving Day, as our nation pauses to express appreciation for the gifts we enjoy, I want to wish you and your families the very best. The Corps has much to be thankful for. Our nation stands staunchly behind us, and we are privileged to have the responsibility of defending our nation's interests and promoting peace throughout the world.

As Marines, we not only pause to appreciate the camaraderie within the Marine Corps but also to recognize the special bond of friendship and professionalism that unites us with sister services and allies. At home and around the world, we are a guarantor of the blessings of democracy that are sometimes taken for granted: Free market economy, an open and creative culture, and the many liberties, opportunities and freedoms which characterize our homeland.

We also give thanks to our family members, dedicated to the lives of selfless sacrifice for country and Corps. Marine families provide a source of support and of pride and inspiration. Although they do not wear the uniform, they, too, are "Marines" in the truest sense of the word, and we are honored and humbled by the privilege of serving for and alongside them.

John F. Kennedy reminds us that "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." The Marines, sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and civilian Marines of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region live this daily as we achieve our Marine Corps mission. As we count our blessings, we should share with and comfort those fellow Marines, sailors and families involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. Take a moment to think of the Marines and their families who will not be with their loved ones on this holiday, and know we will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Enjoy this uniquely American tradition and holiday, celebrate with your friends and families and remember those who fight and stand ready far from home. Thank you for all you do and for the significant contributions each of you make in defending our Constitution and our way of life. Happy Thanksgiving and be safe!

Semper Fidelis!

A. Salinas
Brigadier General,
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General



Medal of Honor recipient James A. Taylor (left) speaks with news correspondent Bob Lawrence, KGTV 10 San Diego, before the Visions of Valor ceremony in front of the traveling exhibit at James L. Day Hall, the depot command museum. Pfc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Visions of Valor exhibit stops at depot

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN Chevron staff

A display of photographs and biographies featuring Medal of Honor recipients was opened for the public to view at James L. Day Hall, the depot command museum, on Nov. 9.

The traveling exhibit was graced with the presence of two Medal of Honor recipients, John Baca and James A. Taylor, who both spoke to the attendees during the grand opening of the Tri-West sponsored "Visions of Valor" exhibition, which will remain on the depot until Jan. 9, 2007.

There are 140 portraits and citations of the recipients of the nation's highest military decoration, which has been earned by men who showed uncommon valor in combat.

"A lot of Marines, sailors and soldiers have received awards during the war on terrorism and still don't understand the significance of the Medal of Honor," said Barbara McCurtis, director of the depot museum. "This exhibit highlights the men who made the ultimate sacrifice and left the battlefield with the most respected award that is presented by our nation."

Many of the Medal of Honor recipients received the award posthumously, and the fewer than 120 recipients who are alive today continue to inspire those who will survive them.

Their history is honored through the traveling exhibit, said McCurtis. It allows the men and women of the United States to put faces along with the stories of these brave and noble men as the exhibit passes through the cities of the country.

Their portraits attribute quotes directly from the mouths of the recipients, which gives the exhibit a more personal touch, Mc-Curtis added.

"Visions of Valor" brings a sense of history to the museum in a way that differs from the other exhibits there. It personalizes the medal recipients featured.

Having living recipients at the exhibit's opening helped enhance the visitors' understanding of these heroic men's deeds.

"All the men in these pictures symbolize a family I never had, and to be a part of it is definitely special," said Mr. Baca, a native of San Diego.

"Visions of Valor" is more than just a traveling display of heroes. It is a place where 140 of the more than 3,460 Medal of

SEE **Valor, pg. 2**

First Marine Medal of Honor awarded since Vietnam

By Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn Headquarters Marine Corps

A corporal who died shielding men in his care from a bursting grenade deserves America's highest military decoration, President Bush has confirmed.

Actions by Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who would have turned 25 this month, merit the Medal of Honor, President Bush said at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' dedication ceremony, which coincided with

the 231st Marine Corps anniversary.

"And on this special birthday, in the company of his fellow Marines, I'm proud to announce that our nation will recognize Cpl. Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor," President Bush said in front of approximately 15,000 people.

The announcement prompted a booming "Ooh-rah!" – a spirited cry among Marines – from the back of the crowd, and a long applause followed.

On April 14, 2004, in Iraq near the

Syrian border, the corporal used his helmet and his body to smother an exploding Mills Bomb let loose by a raging insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines tried to subdue.

The explosion dazed and wounded Lance Cpl. William Hampton and Pfc. Kelly Miller. The insurgent stood up after the blast and was immediately killed by Marine small-arms fire.

Dunham lay face down with a shard the size of a dress-shirt button lodged

SEE Honor, pg. 2





RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

He owned his own business and taught grade school, but memories of war movies with his dad compelled him to move his life in a new direction.



Honor recipients in American history are pictured in the same place and time regardless of the era in which they served the United States.

The freedoms America has that most other countries do not, is continually re-established because of the men and woman in the armed forces, said Sgt. Curtis R. Hawkins, depot videographer.

Hawkins, who is from Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, said they not only put their lives on the line for the man next to them, but for the families that remain stateside.

"I know the sacrifices the service members make, and I know how it feels to have someone visit you in the hospital after you are wounded," said Mr. Baca, who visits injured service members at Naval Medical Center San Diego. "With the freedom they give this nation, the least I can do is give my time."

Mr. Baca received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He threw himself on an enemy fragmentation grenade, which was covered by his helmet, saving eight men from injury or death.

The common virtues of uncommon valor captured in the portraits of the Medal of Honor recipients will continue to make their way throughout the Western Region of the United States. The recipients' selfless actions will be forever immortalized in the form

"The humility and heroism of these great patriots shines through every photograph," said David J. McIntyre, TriWest president and CEO. "It is our extreme pleasure to be able to share their incredible faces — and, indeed, incredible stories — with this

Depot, Toys for Tots team up for 3rd annual car show

BY LANCE CPL. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

The depot's Auto Skills & Car Care Center hosted the third annual Toys for Tots Car Show here Nov. 4.

Participants paid an entrance fee of \$10 and brought a new unwrapped toy for Toys

"The car show was put on as a 'thank you' to the service members on the depot and to help the Toys for Tots cause," said Jose Ortega-Garcia, Auto Skills & Car Care Center manager.

Three winners were chosen from five categories. The categories were customs, classics, hot rods, muscle cars and trucks.

There were three special awards for most unique car, people's choice and general's

choice. A white Ford Fairlane hardtop convertible won the most unique. An orange twodoor Ford Coupe won the people's choice.

The winner of the general's choice was a purple 1942 Ford Business Coupe. According to its owner, Denise Payne, it had a flame paint job worth about \$17,000, all original Ford parts and a 302 V8 engine. Since she and her husband bought the car, they have spent about \$4,000 on parts such as tires.

Payne and her husband spent nearly four years chasing down the rare Coupe that was produced for only six months. She said there are only three of them in California.

Cars were not the only part of the show. A few companies from the area also got in

Snap-on, Knap Tools and Mac Tools gave toolboxes full of more than \$700 worth

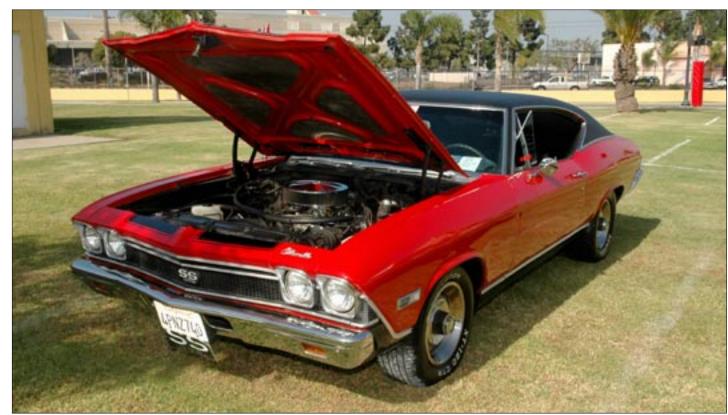
of tools; an XM Satellite Radio was given away as a prize and Auto Trader sponsored a booth with books and car catalogs.

El Sabroso Taco Shop and the depot's Auto Skills & Car Care Center provided free breakfast to help get the car show on the road, said Ortega-Garcia, a native of Mexico City, Mexico.

The depot's Single Marine Program was there as well and used the event to raise funds through donations for a pizza lunch.

"The car show was fun to be at, and we raised a good amount of money for upcoming SMP events," said Sgt. Anthony E. Wiles, member of SMP.

The turnout for this year was good, said Ortega-Garcia. He said that next year he plans to move the car show to December, to attract even more people from the depot.



The above 1969 Chevrolet Camaro Super Sport was a crowd pleaser at this year's Toys for Tots Car Show on the depot. Lance Cpl. Alicia Small/Chevron

Honor, from pg. 1

in his head. The hard, molded mesh that was his Kevlar helmet was now scattered yards around into clods and shredded fabric. Dunham never regained consciousness and died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., with his mother and father at his bedside.

"By giving his own life, Cpl. Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a Marine," said President Bush.

Dunham's commanding officers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, investigated his actions and nominated him for the Medal of Honor. After two years and seven months making its way to the White House, the nomination now has the necessary approval from the president. The president will present the medal and citation at a date to be determined.

Hoping the president would make the Medal of Honor announcement on their son's birthday, Dan and Debra Dunham drove to Quantico from their home in Scio, N.Y.

"The public now knows what Iason did," said Deb. "We still have a loss, but the gift that Jason gave helps us go on.

'The good part is that we get to make new memories and bring new people into the family; the bad news is there will be no new memories with Jason."

Deb sitting in the front row. The parents held each other close as the audience gave a resounding applause.

for us, but it was for Jason," Deb said. "At that point, Dan and I were missing Jason a lot."

Addressing Dunham's parents, President Bush said, "We remember that the Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced.

Dunham, America will never fear for her

Before Dunham, the last Marine actions to earn the medal occurred May 8, 1970, in Vietnam, according to Marine

The president acknowledged Dan and heavily outnumbered.

"We took (the applause) as a thank you

"As long as we have Marines like Cpl.

liberty," added President Bush.

Corps History Division records. A Medal of Honor citation details Lance Cpl.

Miguel Keith's machine-gun charge that inspired a platoon facing nearly overwhelming odds: Wounded, Keith ran into "fire-swept terrain." Wounded again by a grenade, he still attacked, taking out enemy men in the forward rush. Keith fought until mortally wounded; his platoon came out on top despite being

The last Marine to physically receive the Medal of Honor was Maj. Gen. James L. Day, but it was for actions in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. On Jan. 20, 1998, more than half a century later, President Bill Clinton presented the medal to Day, who passed away that year. Since the long war began, the presi-

dent has presented one Medal of Honor. On April 4, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith posthumously earned the medal for organizing a defense that held off a company-sized attack on more than 100 vulnerable coalition soldiers. In the defense, Smith manned a .50 caliber machine gun in an exposed position until he was mortally wounded.

BRIEFS

Thanksgiving buffet

The depot's Bay View Restaurant will be hosting a Thanksgiving buffet from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. tomorrow. The price will be \$24.95 for adults and \$12.50 for children ages 4 to 12. Children under four eat free. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes and trimmings will be served. For more information and reservations, call (619) 725-6356.

Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego commanding general invites you to the 2006 Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. The concert will feature your favorite holiday songs performed by Marine Band San Diego. The concert and tree lighting ceremony is free and open to active duty and retired service members, depot civilians and families, so bring your family and share in the joy of the holiday season.

Santa's arrival

Celebrate the season and Santa's arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m., and Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Share your wish list. MCRD welcomes Santa for the holiday season in the Exchange and Mall area. Activities for children and families: games, carolers and more. To find out more, visit www.mccsmcrd.com.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers make a difference! Volunteers, especially those working for social and community service organizations, are often a key factor in determining whether a program will be sustainable. Of course, the fact that a "volunteer" does not collect a paycheck for his or her work is a significant "dollars-and-cents" consideration for an organization, but it is only one. Most volunteers contribute their time to an effort because they want to, there is a motivation beyond pay that moves them to act. For some, that motivation may be very personal, the result of a life experience; for others, their volunteer work can serve as a "hands-on" introduction to a particular program or area of interest, an opportunity to observe how they can be instrumental in helping an organization meet the needs of the people it serves. To find out more, visit www.mccsmcrd.com.

Free trip to Super Bowl

From now until Dec. 7, anytime you patronize an MCCS Club or Restaurant, you will be eligible to enter into a raffle for a chance to win a five day/four night, all expense paid trip for two to Miami to attend Super Bowl XLI. Visit the Bay View Restaurant or the Locker Room for details or got to www.mccsmcrd.com.

SEND BRIEFS TO jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

It takes more than a 'kid' to wear eagle, globe and anchor

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC Press chief

No one came into the Marine Corps to be called a "kid." Man or woman, yes, but not kid. Since coming to the depot in January, I have heard many senior Marines refer to junior Marines as kids. Although these Marines may be old enough to be their fathers or mothers, I have to disagree with this word when applied to any Marine.

The rite of passage into the Corps was boot camp. That was the transformation point at which civilians, some still to be considered boys and girls at the time, became men and women—or more acutely, warriors. These warriors, trained and prepared to fight for

right and freedom, have each taken up the sword for their fellow beloved Americans and the Constitution of the United States.

I believe it is a disservice and perhaps even a discouraging factor to address any of our Marines, who each volunteered to serve, as kids as it does not encourage the right spirit of the Corps—that of honor, courage, commitment, unselfishness, integrity and humility.

When I think of a kid, I think of an immature person who is somewhat directionless. At least, that is what I perceive of myself as a kid. When I think of a Marine, however, I think of a freedom-loving, goal-oriented person who knows what he wants and where

The Marine Corps is made up of many young men and women, some not even 18 years of age. And I know their inexperience can sometimes be manifested in the way they act or things they say; yet, I don't think that is a reason for anyone to call them

Truth be told, I have called some Marines kids because of their immature actions. But, I cannot, should not and will not continue to do so as it hurts morale and sends the wrong message to those I talk to and those who are listening in.

I think it prudent for those in senior leadership positions to address their Marines correctly. I am reminded of a

story that a respected gunnery sergeant aboard the depot told me a little while ago. He said he was in Iraq, and appreciated and held the utmost respect for Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force. The gunny said that whenever Marines got back from a patrol or from a fight Lt. Gen. Mattis would remark, "Fine young men, fine young men."

Let's think about how we address our fellow Marines, whether 10 or 30 years separates us from junior Marines. Let's give them the dignity and respect they deserve by calling them a more dignified and respectful title rather than "kids."

Gettysburg Address:

This week marks the 143rd anniversary of President Lincoln's earth-shaking speech

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*The above is a reproduction of President Lincoln's speech as it was spoken.



U.S. military has close ties to **American Indian Heritage Month**

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER

The president designated the month of November as the American Indian Heritage Month, which is held in honor of American Indians who have added to the development and character of our nation.

This month's theme is "A Warrior's Tradition: Con tributing to our Nation's Freedom."

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York City. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a resolution designating November as the National American Indian Heritage Month. Since then, similar proclamations have been issued every year, according to www.census.gov.

Indians have served with the American military for more than 200 years. Originally as scouts, Indians were known for their warrior spirit and amazing skill in tracking the enemy, according to Marine Admin

As an Indian from the Creek tribe, this month has a special meaning to me because many Indian tribes, including my own, have played a part in Marine Corps

In 1835, the Creek Indians fought alongside Marines during a seven-year war with the Seminole Indians. Many of the Creek Indians were commanded by Marine officers, which marked a first in Marine Corps

Since then, American Indians have gone through great measures to fight for America, according to www.defenselink.mil. A survey suggested that during World War II more than 40 percent of Indians in the military were volunteers for the war rather than

According to www.defenselink.mil, one Indian was furious when he was denied enlistment because he was told that he was too fat to run. He responded with, "I didn't come here to run. I came here to fight."

World War II was perhaps the most notable account of Indian contribution during war.

A Pima Indian named Ira Hayes was immortalized in an iconic photograph of the flag raising over Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. The raising of the flag is said to have ensured a Marine Corps for the next

The flag raising was partially made possible by a



Creek Indian Ernest Childers was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army when he received the Medal of Honor on April 22, 1944. American Indians sacrificed much for democracy.

group of Indians known as the Navajo Code Talkers. Navajo Indians transmitted vital information between commanders using a code-based form of their native language. The Japanese forces, who were skilled code breakers, were unable to decipher the code.

The Navajo code talkers are credited with saving countless lives, and it has been said that the Marines couldn't have taken Iwo Jima without them.

Three American Indians were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, one of whom was from

Currently, American Indians hold two-percent representation in the military in comparison to their one-percent of the civilian populace.

The warrior spirit of the Indians continues on the battlefields of today. As of October 2006, four Indian Marines have been awarded bronze stars with combat distinguishing devices for their actions in Iraq. Another has received a silver star, and yet another has received a Navy Cross.

It's a good feeling for someone like me, an American Indian, to know that people of my heritage have played a role in the development of this country. Despite the racial barriers and conflicts they have faced, American Indians helped shape our way of life as we know it today.



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Recruits navigate Camp Pendleton for field training

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER Chevron staff

Private Emmanuel Maldonado, Platoon 3046, Company M, and his team stood along the ridgeline of a series of hills Oct. 15, hoping their position would give them a better line of sight on their objective.

Maldonado, a native of Santa Maria, Calif., and his team were looking for the last checkpoint on the land navigation course they took when Company M was on field week during the second phase of boot camp which is held at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

After establishing his compass azimuth and checking the map a final time, Maldonado determined the path his team needed to take to find their objective, which was over a series of hills and down several ravines that were wedged between mountains in the rocky landscape.

Thanks to the instruction on land navigation procedures Company M received through hours of classes, he was able to lead his team around the steep hills to the hidden objective.

"The course was difficult and we thought we were lost once, but I learned a lot about (land navigation)," said Maldonado.

Maldonado and his team learned basic and advanced land navigation, map reading techniques and how to determine a pace count. After the classes, they were tested on their new skills with a three-hour practical application exercise.

A team of four Marines is referred to as a fire team. Equipped with a compass, map and route card for their mission, and a whistle for safety, Company M fire teams navigated their way through the course.

Maldonado and his team had to work a little harder to accomplish the goal since their team was short one man. Maldonado maintained the compass while teammate Pvt. William Van Singel, from Grand Rapids, Mich., read directions off the map and pointed out terrain features to help them on their way.

Private Chris M. Faulkner, from St. Gabriel, Calif., was the third man on the team and held both re-

sponsibilities of scouting ahead and keeping the pace count to determine how far the team had traveled.

Before embarking on the land navigation mission, Company M fire teams were assigned a route card that detailed grid coordinate information for the locations of their assigned checkpoints. They used this information to plot their respective checkpoints on their maps to plan the best routes to each point.

Though each fire team was assigned five check-points there were scores more scattered throughout the training area. The abundance of checkpoints made the course more confusing for Maldonado and his team. If they would have found the wrong checkpoint without realizing it, it could have thrown them off for the remainder of the course.

Checkpoints consisted of empty ammunition cans hanging from poles sticking out of the ground and were assigned numbers.

As the recruits made their way through the course, they located the number on the side of each ammo can and documented it on their route card. After the recruits finished the course, the numbers they wrote down were checked for accuracy by a field instructor, said Cpl. Julio Torres, field instructor with Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Edson Range.

Staff Sgt. David Lopez, senior drill instructor for Platoon 3046, said the majority of his recruits will deploy with forward ground units and need to have this skill to aid them in future missions.

According to Torres, Marines use a Global Positioning Satellite to navigate in combat areas while conducting missions. Yet, he said equipment can become unreliable since it can be damaged in the field or the power supply could run out, which makes land navigation so important.

The land navigation course is designed to give recruits the knowledge they need to know in the event of equipment failure, said Torres, who hails from Bakersfield, Calif.

Like all the other courses during field week, land navigation teaches recruits how to adapt to their operational environment and overcome any situation they may face.



Pvts. Emanuel Maldonado (left) and William Van Singel guide their scout by shouting out the direction to walk. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



Pvt. William Van Singel points to the area on the map which he believes the team should go next. Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron



A Company M fire team takes a minute to determine the direction of its next navigation objective. Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron





Pvt. Emanuel Maldonado, Platoon 3046, Company M, shoots an azimuth as Pvt. William Van Singel observes the scout in the distance. Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevro

Company M recruits descend one of many hills to track down a far-away checkpoint. During land navigation, recruits only use a map, a compass, and a protractor to find objectives. Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron

Teacher drops books, picks up rifle

BY LANCE CPL. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

One Marine from Platoon 3043, Company M, faced his fear of the unknown and left behind a job teaching elementary students and a business he owns to become a Marine.

Private Joshua Lopez graduated today living a dream he has had since childhood.

Lopez felt inspired at a young age to join the military when he watched war movies with his father. He said this was because of the bond he gained from the quality time the movies allowed them to spend together.

His first intentions were to join right out of high school, but his mother wanted him to get a college degree first.

Following the path of education, Lopez graduated from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Dallas with a bachelor's degree. Majoring in history and minoring in secondary education, he used his degree to teach fourth grade students general education and he taught English and science to fifth graders.

He also owned a successful business with one of his childhood friends, selling pitching machines to baseball teams. They were able to expand their business, ACE Pitching Machines, across the country and internationally to Mexico and Puerto Rico.

After driving by the recruiter's office on his way to work every day, Lopez said he finally stopped to speak with the recruiter.

He was 25 when he finally walked into Recruiting Substation Ingram Texas, Recruiting Station San Antonio. He enlisted because he had always entertained the thought of being a Marine and felt he was young, fit and still up for the hard work of

Lopez said he wanted to develop his leadership and self-reliance, and he desired an overall challenge.

He decided to join the Marines because he needed more out of life, said his recruiter Sgt. Timothy S. Hudman. He needed a challenge and wanted to serve his country, said Hudman.

Lopez used what he had learned as a teacher to help other recruits on a one-on-one basis when he saw they needed help.

Seeing someone who was older give up so much to join the Marines humbled the other recruits and aided them in focusing on their mission, said Sgt. Matthew Butler, his senior drill instructor.

Throughout recruit training, Lopez learned and applied the core values every Marine possesses.

"Considering his fear of the unknown, it took a lot of courage to give up everything he knew and enlist during a time of war," said Butler, of Temecula, Calif. "He also displayed strong core values despite his difficult position of being an older recruit. He always did what he had to do and never complained."

He had been in the civilian world longer and had more to give up than most people do, said Hudman, of San Antonio. He had to have courage to just walk into a recruiter's office and change his whole life.

Lopez believes the part of the Marine Corps he exhibits the most is commitment. He said his family and fellow Marines know they can count on him.

It was his commitment to his goal of being a Marine that made him leave behind a successful business. Even while he was in the delayed entry



Pvt. Joshua Lopez, Platoon 3043, Company M, prepares his Service "A" uniform for today's graduation ceremony. Lopez said this is his favorite service uniform because of its sharp and squared-away look. Lance Cpl. Alicia Small/Chevron

program, he did everything it took to be as prepared as he could for a challenge bigger than most people come across, said Hudman.

"Being a Marine is an honor few people can claim," said Lopez. "I couldn't let the opportunity to be a part of something so great just pass me by. The Marine Corps is a team, a family. It is an awesome thing to be able to stand next to someone and trust

During his service to the Corps, Lopez plans on furthering his education. His future goal is to become a superintendent of a school district after he finishes his four-year enlistment as an air traffic

"I think he will make an outstanding Marine because he is very motivated and has a lot of heart," said Hudman. "He will do what it takes to make sure he doesn't let a fellow Marine down.'

"Joining the Marine Corps was the best decision I have ever made," said Lopez. "This is where I am supposed to be, and if given the chance, I would do

Howard Collins

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

After spending four years in the United States Navy, Howard Collins joined Government Employees Insurance Company in 1982 as an underwriter. During his time at GEICO, Collins has held a variety of underwriter supervisory positions and currently serves at the company's Western Regional Office in Poway, Calif. as the Military Services manager. In this

capacity, Collins is GEICO's lead associate for military liaison and outreach activities and a dedicated supporter of active duty Marines serving aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Collins represents GEICO at MCRD and Western Recruiting Region's noncommissioned officer and Marine of the quarter ceremonies and supports the recognition of these outstanding Marines by sponsoring various awards and other outreach programs. With GEICO, Collins has also supported depot events such as Bay Fest and the

Boot Camp Challenge. Collins holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in management from California State University, Los Angeles, and a quality management certificate from the University of California, San Diego. He volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego and also volunteers his time to the Poway Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the University Council at California State University San





Lance Cpl. R. Bueno Indianapolis Recruited by



Mankato, Minn. Recruited by Recruited by





Pfc. T. A. Bergstrom Portland, Oregon Recruited by



Pfc. J. D. Engen Pfc. R. S. Shawhan Simi Valley, Calif Chino, Calif. Recruited by Recruited by



Pfc. C. S. Mitchell Round Rock, Texas Recruited by



Roheat Park, Calif. Recruited by

*Pfc. E. W. Sherma

Pvt. R. Solis Pvt. R. G. Stewart II

Pvt. W. R. Szepi

Pvt. C. L. Todoroff

Pvt. W. J. Van Singe

Pvt. N. L Varella Pvt. A. M. Vargas

Pvt. E. R. Venegas

Pvt. T. E. Womack

Pvt. E. C. Wright

Pvt. M. I. Zavala

PLATOON 3047

Drill Instructors

Pfc. B. Chantha Pvt. D. C. Cox

Staff Sgt. F. J. Corona

Staff Sgt. J. O. Brooks

*Lance Cpl. A. T. Disney

Pfc. H. S. Escamilla Pvt. V. T. Figueroa

Pfc. A. J. Garcia

Pvt. J. R. Notino

Pfc. H. R. Orozco Pfc. F. E. Ortiz

Pfc. D. S. Oulela

Pfc. W. R. Patrick

Pvt. R. W. Perieff

Pvt. T. S. Placker Pvt. J. M. Poblete

Pfc. J. B. Poertner

*Pfc. E. Price Jr.

Pvt. C. L. Renfro

Pvt. S. D. Rincon

Pvt. M. P. Sabo

Pvt. M. A. Samples Jr.

Pvt. U. I. Sanchez-Lande

Pvt. R. P. Sanchez

Pvt. L. A. Schall

Pvt. L. D. Schenk

Pfc. R. S. E. Schimdt

Pfc. R. D. Shoenwald

Pvt. C. Rassi

Pvt. M. A. Odorosio-Gallardo

Pvt. J. A. Gundrum *Pfc. J. P. Manasan Pvt. W. T. McGee

Pfc. J. Villarreal Pfc. W. R. Wolf

MIKE COMPANY



Company M recruits hike up a hill in search of a land navigation objective at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during field training. Lance Opl. James Green/Chevron

Pvt. J. B. Marshall-Nail

Pvt. M. W. McCullough

Pvt. J. C. Mies

*Pfc. T. P. Mille

Pvt. C. S. Miller

Pvt. S. C. Mitchel

Pvt. E. J. Schubert

Pfc. R. A. Shepherd

PLATOON 3043

Pvt. S. A. Mohr

THIRD RECRUIT TRAINING

BATTALION Lt. Col. R. W. Jones Sergeant Major Sgt. Maj. R. E. Eriksson Lt. R. T. Rinaldi Gunnery Sgt. M. Bermude

COMPANY M Capt. O. Rodriguez 1st Sgt. M. D. Johns

SERIES 3041 Capt. R. D Wolfe

SERIES 3045 1st Lt. J. S. Zumwalt Series Gunnery Sergeant Gunnery Sgt. C. J. Sanche

PLATOON 3041 Staff Sgt. L. A. Clark Sgt. C. G. Mora

Pfc. M. T. Archbold Pvt. D. D. Banez *Pfc. J. D. Bennet Pvt. E. A. Bertrand Pvt. T. A. Bodinet Pfc. C. R. Boeer Pfc. B. C. Bowcut Pvt. L. C. Bransfield Pvt. F. W. Brewer Pvt. J. T. Buckley Pvt. J. E. Busby Pvt. M. D. Byrtus Pvt. M. T. Carradine J Pvt. J. F. Cervantes Pvt. C. M. Clawson Pfc. R. A. Clepper Pvt. J. D. Condon

Pvt. J. A. Desantiago Pvt. E. E. Duran Jr. Pvt. T. A. Dvkstra Pfc. J. D. Elliot Pvt. M. T. Evans Pvt. J. P. Fuentes Pfc. E. D. Gall Pvt. K. N. Gilton

Pfc. C. M. Coulombe

Pvt. A. C. Greenwood

Pvt. R. C. Hall

Pfc. G. Q. Hartman

Pvt. J. L. Janovsky Pvt. S. J. Jenkins Jr. Pvt. M. S. Johnson

Pvt. S. S. Johnson Pvt. M. W. Jones Pfc. R. N. Kuks Jr Pvt. V. D. Ledbetter II Pvt. J. A. Long Pvt. A. J. Mabrey Pvt. S. T. Maddox Pvt. A. M. Meriwether Pfc. D. L. Mever Pvt. J. L. Moffitt Pvt. J. D. Moon Pfc. D. T. Mussey Pfc. A. D. Nguyentran Pvt. J. K. Nickerson Pvt. L. G. Olvera Pvt. M. R. Ramsli *Pfc. Z. J. Ramsli Pvt S F Steigerwald

PLATOON 3042 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. L. Crumpton

Pvt. D. J. Wisner

Pfc. T. R. Zellaha

Drill Instructors Staff Sqt. R. Washingto

Pvt. C. D. Aro Pvt. B. C. Bennett *Pfc. T. A. Berastron Pvt. D. J. Brav Pfc. D. G. Bridgefortl Pvt. J. A. Brvant Pvt. S. M. Camacho Pvt. J. A. Camp

Pvt. J. P. Esler

Pvt. A. M. Farrow

Pvt. C. A. Faulkne

Pvt. E. L. Feuerborn

Pvt. D. J. Fuhrmann

Pvt. A. P. Geiger Pvt. J. A. Giamalaki

Pfc. J. H. Gossett

Pfc. A. A. Gygi

Pvt. C. J. Harris

*Pfc. S. T. Jamiesor

Pvt. B. Jauregui

Pvt. T. J. Johnsto

*Pfc. N. K. Jones

Pfc. M. A. Judge

Pvt. C. S. Ketchun

Pvt. M. C. King

Pvt. J. A. Krejc

Pvt. R. J. Labelle

Pvt. M. C. Laver

Pfc. Z. M. Leclair

Pvt. A. J. Lenzie

Pvt. C. S. Littrell

Pfc. D. K. Jones

Sat. M. A. Butler Pvt. W. E. Conner Sgt. T. G. Thompsor Pvt. S. F. Daly Pvt. D. S. Barker Pvt. C. M. Dorsev Pvt. W. C. Birdsona

Pvt. R. D. Borrego Pvt. J. P. Bublitz *Lance Cpl. R. Bueno Pfc. D. R. Burkhalter Pvt. E. L. Cathev Jr Pvt. J. B. Cox Pvt. A. L. Creek Pvt. S. P. Draznin Pvt. S. K. F. Dunwoody Pfc I C Fajardo-Salcedo Pvt. L. R. Fjelstad Pvt. R. D. Forgerso Pvt. L. Fuentes Jr. Pvt. K. J. Garber Jr Pvt. R. A. Garcia Pvt. D. D. Glamann Pvt. C. T. Gomez *Pfc. J. R. Grit Pvt. E. Guerra Pfc. M. A. Guerrero Pvt. R. Hernandez Ji *Pfc. J. L. Hoff Pfc. T. R. Howard Pfc. A. B. Hurst

Pfc. A. A. Jaime

Pvt. C. M. Johnson

Pfc. J. J. Cibula-Griffit Pvt. J. J. Lopez Pvt. M. W. Colwell Pvt. E. S. Lucas Pvt. A. A. Cortes Pfc. O. L. Martinez Pvt. J. F. Crain III Pfc. W. C. McBride Pvt. J. A. Cummings Pvt. J. R. Mendiola Pfc. M. S. Cunninghan Pvt. M. S. Millman Pvt. J. W. Mills Pvt. J. A. De La Rosa Pvt. K. M. Neubecker Pvt. M. E. Dial Pfc. G. L. Dunn Pvt. I. F. Ortega Pvt. J. C. Pack *Pfc. J. D. Engen Pvt. R. Porras Jr. Pvt. L. A. Porter Pvt. A. H. Forbush Pfc. J. A. Ramon Pvt. L. A. Ramos Valla *Pfc. E. J. Fritz Pvt. B. M. Roberts Pvt. R. B. Fugate *Pfc. C. D. Rossi Pvt. J. D. Gray Pvt. S. J. Ruplinge Pvt. J. W Gruger

Pvt. M. P. Jordan

Pvt. J. A. Koepper

Pvt. A. S. Koszuth Jr.

Pvt. M. E. League

Pvt. S. M. Leahy

Pvt. C. E. Ledbette

Pvt. S. M. Sullivar **PLATOON 3045** Senior Drill Instructo Gunnery Sgt. D. C. Holland Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. R. R. Radford Staff Sgt. J. D. Nicholson Sqt. J. K. Kawaihalau

Pvt. T. W. Sproles

Pvt. R. M. Adler Pfc. S. Y. Agbodza Pfc. M. C. Bann Pvt. J. D. Barnard Pvt. D. A. Barragan Pvt. J. J. Baughmar

Pvt. W. W. Webber Pfc. Z. J. Wilson PLATOON 3046 Senior Drill Instructo Staff Sgt. D. J. Lopez Staff Sat. T. C. Hubbard

Pfc. B. L. Storie

Pvt. C. E. Blake

Pvt. I. H. Bretana Jr

Pfc. J. M. Bruch

Pvt. W. A. Brickson Jr.

Pvt. C. W. Butterwick

Pvt. J. A. Hernandez

Pfc. G. D. Heitshuser

Pvt. R. J. Kevs

Pvt. T. M. Leavitt

Pvt. B. S. Loose

*Pfc. M. J. Mclean

Pvt. G. J. Mete Ji

Pvt. J. D. Misfeldt

Pvt. W. Moua

Pvt. R. J. Oller

Pvt. N. H. Phan

Pvt. M. R. Patchett

Pvt. P. N. Peplowsk

Pvt. M. D. Linebaugh

Pvt. R. C. Schur Pvt. C. L. Sensabaugh Pfc. C. L. Andersor Pvt. J. A. Shackelford Pvt. D. M. Sheridan Pvt. P. Cain Jr. Pvt. R. W. Shotts Pvt. A. Castellanos Pvt. G. S. Sisterman Pfc. C. M. Falkner Pvt. K. T. Sleeth Pvt. D. A. Gastelum Pvt. T. R. Smith Pfc. J. M. Gonzalez *Pfc. W. T. Stephens Pvt. J. L. Groenevelo Pvt. J. D. Stewart Pvt. G. M. Hartlev Pvt. R. M. Stricherz Pfc. T. A. Tate Pvt. A. T. Taylor-Stiffarm Pvt. C. A. Leach Pvt. K. L. Maguire Pfc. M. Y. Tellio *Pfc. D. P. Maher Pfc. T. A. Tito-pace Pvt D W Tomlinson Ir Pvt. E. Maldonado Pvt. J. A. Vicencio Pvt. S. R. McKinney Pvt. C. S. Mever Pvt. E. D. Watkins Pfc. P. A. Millanguzma Pvt. B. M. Morgan Pvt. M. R. Whitfield Pvt. C. R. Mullins Pvt. S. C. Williams Pfc. Z. Q. Negrete Pfc. C. D. Workman Pvt. A. M. Nieland Pvt. J. R. Workman Pvt. C. M. Noves Pfc. J. D. Wyble Pfc. C. A. O'Quin Pfc. M. R. Yucuis Pfc. M. A. Ortiz Pvt. S. P. Perez Jr.

Pvt. W. J. Quadere

Pvt. Z. K. Renshaw

Pvt. J. L. Rivera Jr.

Pvt. J. K. Rojales

*Pfc. J. A. Santov

Pvt. C. J. Schallert

Pvt. C. J. Scott

Pfc. B. C. Quintanilla

*Meritorious promotion

Pfc. D. L. Zentmire Pvt. C. K. Zerby Pfc. Z. D. Zigler

HOT HOT TURKEY TROT

MCCS, volunteer veterans make annual Turkey Day fun run success

BY LANCE CPL. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

Service members and civilians aboard the depot participated in the annual Marine Corps Community Services Turkey Trot, a five kilometer fun run, Friday.

Members of the Veterans Village of San Diego volunteered to help with the day's preparation of pre-registration, registration and controlling the lanes at the finish line.

The veterans volunteer for as many community service events as they can, said Gary Parker, director of volunteer services, Veterans Village of San Diego. Parker, a native of San Diego, said they like to get out and let people know they are willing to help.

"We like to do anything that shows our support for the community and our service members," said Willie Biros, volunteer. "It is important to provide moral support to our troops, especially during the holiday season. It's a team effort, and I'm just glad to be a part of the

Jeremy Brown, the Marine Corps athlete of the year and recent drill instructor here, won first overall with a time of 13 minutes and 47 seconds. Craig Clark of Headquarters and Service Battalion finished second in 14 minutes and 57 seconds and Brad Rusher, 12th Marine Corps District, took third place with a time of 15 minutes and 26 seconds.

Catalina Szilvagli was the first woman to cross the finish line with a time of 18 minutes and 17 seconds, and 11-year-old Deven Walter was the first child to finish the race in 18 minutes and 47 seconds.

After the race, participants enjoyed free music, food and drinks. Prizes ranging from gift certificates for the Marine Corps Exchange to a \$400 camcorder were also raffled off to the runners.

Members of the Veterans Village of San Diego plan to help out with the MCCS St. Patrick's Day fun run next March.



Sgt. Eric Snipes, a depot police dog handler, runs across the finish line with Tino, a K-9 police dog. Lance Cpl. Alicia Small/Chevron photos



Col. Warren J. Foersch (left) awards Lance Cpl. Ryan James with a second place medal. James finished with a time of 16:12 to place in the 18-to-24-year-old age bracket.